UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/613,900	07/11/2000	IAN E. SMITH	XER1P006	9960

25696   7590   06/02/2003

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EXAMINER
LAFORGIA, CHRISTIAN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	5

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

Office Action Summary	Application No 09/613,900	Applicant(s) SMITH ET AL.
	Examiner Christian La Forgia	Art Unit 2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _07 November 2000_ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-42_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-42_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _11 July 2000_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6)☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1 through 42 are presented for examination.

Drawings

2.   The informal drawings filed in this application are acceptable for examination purposes.

When the application is allowed, applicant will be required to submit new formal drawings.

3.   The Patent and Trademark Office no longer makes drawing changes. See 1017 O.G. 4.

It is applicant's responsibility to ensure that the drawings are corrected. Corrections must be

made in accordance with the instructions below.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1.   **Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85**

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying
indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and
application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been
assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front
of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a
Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE
MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability."
Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 for filing
the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings
should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official
Draftsperson.

2.   **Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.**

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST**
be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red
ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved
by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to
be made, other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the
proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the time period set in the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.185(a). Failure to take corrective action within the set (or extended) period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.

Specification

4.   The use of the trademark IBM, Apple Macintosh, Unix, Microsoft, Windows NT, Windows 95, IBM OS/2, Mac OS, SQL, Sun Microsystems, and Netscape Navigator has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

5.   Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7.   Claims 3, 17, and 31 recite the limitation "at least one application" in which there is no prior mention of any applications being executed. Thus, there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this

subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1, 2, 5 through 7, 9 through 16, 23 through 30, 33 through 35 and 37 through 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,185,551 to Birrell et al., (hereinafter Birrell).

10. As per claim 1, Birrell teaches a method for managing information transmitted utilizing a network, comprising:

(a) receiving a first message directed to a recipient utilizing a network, wherein the electronic message includes content (Figures 2 [block 242], 8 [block 805], 9 [block 930]; column 1, line 62 to column 2, line 7; column 2, lines 38-55; column 4, lines 22-59; column 5, lines 7-18);

(b) storing the first message in a database (Figures 2 [blocks 250, 400, 500], 4 [block 250], 8 & 9 [blocks 400, 500]; column 6, line 48 to column 7, line 7; column 7, line 22 to column 8, line 31);

(c) transmitting the first message to the recipient utilizing the network (Figures 2 [block 241]; column 4, lines 22-59; column 5, lines 7-18);

(d) receiving a query from a user utilizing the network (Figures 2 [block 243, 245, 280], 3 [blocks 340, 350, 360], 8 [block 830], 9 [block 910]; column 5, line 47 to column 6, line 9; column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 31);

(e) retrieving content that satisfies the query from the database (Figures 2 [block 243, 245, 280], 3 [blocks 340, 350, 360], 8 [block 830], 9 [block 910]; column 5, line 47 to column 6, line 9; column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 31); and

(f) transmitting the retrieved content to the user in a second information exchange

utilizing the network (Figures 2 [block 241]; column 4, lines 22-59; column 5, lines 7-18;

column 12, lines 14-58).

11.   Regarding claim 2, Birrell teaches wherein information coupled with the message is

stored in the database (Figures 2 [block 243, 245, 280], 3 [blocks 340, 350, 360], 8 [block 830],

9 [block 910]; column 12, lines 32-58; column 13, lines 1-23).

12.   Regarding claim 5, Birrell teaches wherein information in the database is utilized to

summarize the interaction between one or more participants (column 5, line 29 to column 6, line

9; column 7, lines 22-63; column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 31).

13.   With regards to claim 6, Birrell teaches wherein a task list is generated to summarize the

interaction (column 5, line 29 to column 6, line 9; column 7, lines 22-63; column 9, line 42 to

column 10, line 31).

14.   Regarding claim 7, Birrell teaches wherein an event is utilized to organize information

from the database (Figures 2 [block 243, 245, 280], 3 [blocks 340, 350, 360], 8 [block 830], 9

[block 910]; column 5, line 47 to column 6, line 9; column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 31).

15.   Regarding claim 9, Birrell teaches wherein a reply to the message is utilized to generate

another message to obtain information for the database (Figure 2 [blocks 244, 280], 3 [blocks

330, 340, 350, 360], 4 [blocks 411, 412, 431, 432, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 460], 5, 6; column 7,

lines 8-63; column 8, line 33 to column 9, line 62).

16.   Regarding claim 10, Birrell teaches wherein the first and second messages each comprise

an electronic-mail ("e-mail") message (Figures 2 [blocks 241, 242, 243, 245, 280], 3 [blocks 340,

350, 360], 8 [blocks 805, 830], 9 [blocks 910, 930]; column 1, line 62 to column 2, line 7;

column 2, lines 38-55; column 4, lines 22-59; column 5, lines 7-18; column 12, lines 32-58;

column 13, lines 1-23).

17.   With regards to claim 11, Birrell teaches wherein the first electronic message further

includes an attachment to the e-mail message (Figures 2 [block 243, 245, 280], 3 [blocks 340,

350, 360], 8 [block 830], 9 [block 910]; column 12, lines 32-58; column 13, lines 1-23).

18.   Regarding claim 12, Birrell teaches wherein the electronic message has one or more

attributes, and further comprising generating an index based on the one or more attributes of the

electronic message, and storing the index in the database (Figure 2 [blocks 244, 280], 3 [blocks

330, 340, 350, 360], 4 [blocks 411, 412, 431, 432, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 460], 5, 6; column 7,

lines 8-63; column 8, line 33 to column 9, line 62).

19.   Regarding claim 13, Birrell teaches further comprising categorizing the content into a

plurality of categories, and permitting retrieval of the information from the database according to

at least one of the categories (column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 23; column 11, lines 15-42).

20.   Regarding claim 14, Birrell teaches further comprising generating summaries of the

information stored in the database based on the analyzed content, storing the summaries in the

database, permitting retrieval of at least one of the summaries from the database utilizing the

network (column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 23; column 11, lines 15-42).

21.   As per claim 15, Birrell teaches a computer program embodied on a computer readable

medium for managing information transmitted utilizing a network, comprising:

(a) a code segment for receiving a first message directed to a recipient utilizing a

network, wherein the electronic message includes content (Figures 2 [block 242], 8 [block 805],

9 [block 930]; column 1, line 62 to column 2, line 7; column 2, lines 38-55; column 4, lines 22-

59; column 5, lines 7-18);

(b) a code segment for storing the first message in a database (Figures 2 [blocks 250, 400,

500], 4 [block 250], 8 & 9 [blocks 400, 500]; column 6, line 48 to column 7, line 7; column 7,

line 22 to column 8, line 31);

(c) a code segment for transmitting the first message to the recipient utilizing the network

(Figures 2 [block 241]; column 4, lines 22-59; column 5, lines 7-18);

(d) a code segment for receiving a query from a user utilizing the network (Figures 2

[block 243, 245, 280], 3 [blocks 340, 350, 360], 8 [block 830], 9 [block 910]; column 5, line 47

to column 6, line 9; column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 31);

(e) a code segment for retrieving content that satisfies the query from the database (Figures 2 [block 243, 245, 280], 3 [blocks 340, 350, 360], 8 [block 830], 9 [block 910]; column 5, line 47 to column 6, line 9; column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 31); and

(f) a code segment for transmitting the retrieved content to the user in a second information exchange utilizing the network (Figures 2 [block 241]; column 4, lines 22-59; column 5, lines 7-18; column 12, lines 14-58).

22.   Claim 16 is rejected for similar reasons as discussed above.

23.   Claims 19 through 21 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

24.   Claims 23 through 28 are rejected for similar reasons as discussed above.

25.   As per claim 29, Birrell teaches a system for managing information transmitted utilizing a network, comprising:

(a) logic for receiving a first message directed to a recipient utilizing a network, wherein the electronic message includes content (Figures 2 [block 242], 8 [block 805], 9 [block 930]; column 1, line 62 to column 2, line 7; column 2, lines 38-55; column 4, lines 22-59; column 5, lines 7-18);

(b) logic for storing the first message in a database (Figures 2 [blocks 250, 400, 500], 4 [block 250], 8 & 9 [blocks 400, 500]; column 6, line 48 to column 7, line 7; column 7, line 22 to column 8, line 31);

(c) logic for transmitting the first message to the recipient utilizing the network (Figures 2

[block 241]; column 4, lines 22-59; column 5, lines 7-18);

(d) logic for receiving a query from a user utilizing the network (Figures 2 [block 243,

245, 280], 3 [blocks 340, 350, 360], 8 [block 830], 9 [block 910]; column 5, line 47 to column 6,

line 9; column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 31);

(e) logic for retrieving content that satisfies the query from the database (Figures 2 [block

243, 245, 280], 3 [blocks 340, 350, 360], 8 [block 830], 9 [block 910]; column 5, line 47 to

column 6, line 9; column 9, line 42 to column 10, line 31); and

(f) logic for transmitting the retrieved content to the user in a second message utilizing

the network (Figures 2 [block 241]; column 4, lines 22-59; column 5, lines 7-18; column 12,

lines 14-58).

26.   Claim 30 is rejected for similar reasons as discussed above.

27.   Claims 33 through 35 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

28.   Claims 37 through 42 are rejected for similar reasons as discussed above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

29.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

30.   Claims 3, 4, 8, 17, 18, 22, 31, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Birrell in view of United States Patent No. 6,065,012 to Balsara et al.,

(hereinafter Balsara).

31.   Regarding claim 3, Birrell does not teach wherein at least one application is executed for

lead tracking, job requisitioning, event planning, task list management, project management, and

accountability.

32.   Balsara teaches wherein at least one application is executed for lead tracking, job

requisitioning, event planning, task list management, project management, and accountability

(Figures 3 [blocks 215b, 215c, 215d, 310, 315, 320], 4 [blocks 410, 415, 420, 430, 435, 440,

445], column 11, lines 6-58). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to include the application tracking of Balsara with the system of

Birrell because it would create a versatile system in which users could access their email as well

as track the progress of certain tasks while they are away from their office. One would be

motivated to incorporate such application capabilities due to the advance of telecommuting and

business trips, such an application allows users to be out of the office without missing anything

at work.

33.   Regarding claim 4, Birrell does not wherein a reply to the message is utilized to advance

the processing of a task.

34.   Balsara teaches wherein a reply to the message is utilized to advance the processing of a

task (Figures 3 [blocks 215b, 215c, 215d, 310, 315, 320], 4 [blocks 410, 415, 420, 430, 435, 440,

445], 7 [block 705]; column 11, lines 6-58; column 18, lines 6-50). It would have been obvious

to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the task tracking

of Balsara with the system of Birrell because it would create a versatile system in which users

could access their email as well as track the progress of certain tasks while they are away from

their office. One would be motivated to incorporate such application capabilities due to the

advance of telecommuting and business trips, such tracking capabilities allow a user to be out of

the office without missing anything at work.

35. Regarding claim 8, Birrell does not teach wherein an event is utilized to advance the

processing of a task.

36. Balsara teaches wherein an event is utilized to advance the processing of a task (Figures 3

[blocks 215b, 215c, 215d, 310, 315, 320], 4 [blocks 410, 415, 420, 430, 435, 440, 445], 7 [block

705]; column 11, lines 6-58; column 18, lines 6-50). It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the task tracking of Balsara

with the system of Birrell because it would create a versatile system in which users could access

their email as well as track the progress of certain tasks while they are away from their office.

One would be motivated to incorporate such application capabilities due to the advance of

telecommuting and business trips, such tracking capabilities allow a user to be out of the office

without missing anything at work.

37. Claims 17, 18, 31, and 32 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

38. Claims 22 and 36 are rejected for similar reasons as discussed above.

Conclusion

39.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

40.   The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to e-mail management systems, such as:

United States Patent No. 5,802,253 to Gross et al., which is cited to show an event-driven rule-based e-mail system.

United States Patent No. 6,128,646 to Miloslavsky, which is cited to show how to route e-mail to a particular user based on the e-mail's content.

United States Patent No. 6,003,070 to Frantz, which is cited to show a method to monitor and control an e-mail system.

United States Patent No. 6,216,122 to Elson, which is cited to show a method to index e-mail.

United States Patent No. 5,826,269 to Hussey, which is cited to show an e-mail interface on a network server.

United States Patent No. 6,122,632 to Botts et al., which is cited to show an e-mail management system.

United States Patent No. 6,415,290 to Botts et al., which is cited to show an e-mail management system.

41.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian La Forgia whose telephone number is (703) 305-7704. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 7-5.

42.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (703) 305-9648. The fax phone numbers for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7240 for regular

communications and (703) 746-7239 for After Final communications.

43.   Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

                                        Christian LaForgia
                                        Patent Examiner
                                        Art Unit 2155

clf
May 27, 2003

                                        AYAZ SHEIKH
                                        SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
                                        TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100